

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" (express mail label indicated below) on March 31, 2004 addressed to: Mail Stop: Patent Application Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Patti Crowder

**UTILITY  
PATENT APPLICATION  
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under  
37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

P71C2-US

First Inventor

Benjamin N. Eldridge et al.

Title

Sharpened, Oriented Contact Tip  
Structures

Express Mail Label No.

Ev 330652159 US

**ADDRESS TO:**

Mail Stop: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**APPLICATION ELEMENTS:**

1. Filing Fee

- a. ☒ The filing fee is calculated below:

Claims as filed in the prior application, less any claims canceled by amendment below, plus any claims added by preliminary amendment:

	(Col. 1) NO. CLAIMS FILED	(Col. 2) NO. CLAIMS EXTRA	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE FEE
<b>BASIC FEE</b>			<b>\$770</b>
TOTAL CLAIMS	<u>12</u> - 20 =	0	x 18 = <u>\$0</u>
INDEP CLAIMS	<u>3</u> - 3 =	0	x 84 = <u>\$0</u>
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED			x 280 = <u>\$0</u>
If the difference in Col 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2			<b>TOTAL: \$770</b>

b. Method of Payment

- i. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above filing fee of \$770.00 and any additional fees which may be required, including extension fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P71C2-US).

- ii. ☐ Check in the amount of \$\_\_\_ is enclosed.

2. ☐ Applicant claims small entity status.

3. ☒ Specification. [Total Pages 39]

4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113). [Total Sheets 7]

5. ☒ Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 4]
- a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☒ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
- i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
- ii. ☐ Post Office Address(es) Of Inventor(s)  
A communication regarding the post office address(es) of the inventor(s)
6. ☒ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76
7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission)

**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS:**

9. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. Power of Attorney
- a. ☐ Newly executed power of attorney
- b. ☒ Copy of the current power of attorney in the prior application
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) with PTO-1449
- a. ☐ Copies of the items listed on the PTO-1449
13. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
15. Foreign Priority
- a. ☐ Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 to application \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ A certified copy of said application
- i. ☐ is enclosed
- ii. ☐ has been filed in application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Copy of Priority Documents (if foreign priority is claimed)

16. ☐ Nonpublication Request under 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. Other
- a. ☒ General Authorization/Petition For Extension Of Time (37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3))
- b. ☒ General Authorization To Charge Deposit Account (37 C.F.R. § 1.25(b))
- c. ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTINUING APPLICATIONS:**

**18. For Continuing Applications Only**

- a. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application serial no.: 10/174,455

Prior application information:

Examiner: Patel, Ishwarbhal B.

Group Art Unit: 2827

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 to the above-mentioned prior application.

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, for which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

- b. ☒ Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:  
--This is a ☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) application of Serial No. 10/174,455, filed June 17, 2002 which is a continuation of U.S. Patent 6,441,315.—  
**Amendment to specification not needed if Application Data Sheet used.**
- c. ☒ Cancel in this application original claims 1-45 of the prior application before calculating the filing fee.

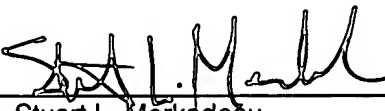
**CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:**

**19. Correspondence Address**

- a. ☒ Customer Number 27520
- b. ☐ The Correspondence Address is:

Date: March 31, 2004

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Stuart L. Merkaudeau  
Registration No. 33,262

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033104  
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PATENT  
Docket No.: P71C2-US  
Express Mail No: EV 330652159 US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of: Benjamin N. Eldridge et al. Application No.: Unknown Filing Date: March 31, 2004 For: Sharpened, Oriented Contact Tip Structures	Examiner: Unknown Group Art Unit: Unknown
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**GENERAL AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Throughout prosecution of the above-identified patent application and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.25(b), where no check is received by the Commissioner, Applicants hereby authorize and request the Commissioner to charge all fees due at any time during the pendency of the above-identified application (or to credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P71C2-US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 31, 2004

By: 

Stuart L. Merkadeau  
Registration No. 33,262

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2140 Research Drive  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of: Benjamin N. Eldridge et al. Application No.: Unknown Filing Date: March 31, 2004 For: Sharpened, Oriented Contact Tip Structures	Examiner: Unknown Group Art Unit: Unknown
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**GENERAL AUTHORIZATION/PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

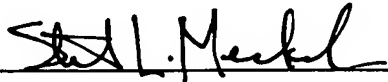
Throughout prosecution of the above-referenced patent application, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3), Applicants hereby authorize and request the Commissioner to treat any correspondence requiring a petition for extension of time as containing a request for the required extension of time. This general authorization is effective during the pendency of the application, including any divisional or continuing application filed there from.

Where no check is received by the Commissioner, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the requisite petition fees, or charge any additional fee

required in connection with correspondence, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit  
Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P71C2-US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 31, 2004

By:   
Stuart L. Merkadeau  
Registration No. 33,262

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